

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00754 040930Z

14

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 AID-05 SCCT-01

/075 W

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O P 032130Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4776

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0754

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, MOPS, MZ, RO

SUBJECT: MACHEL THREATENS TO ESCALATE RHODESIAN WAR

REF: MAPUTO 733 (NOTAL)

1.SUMMARY: IN BELLICOSE SPEECH JULY 3, PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL DENOUNCED JUNE 26 AND JUNE 28 RHODESIAN RAIDS SIXTH MILES INSIDE MOZAMBIQUE. HE ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF NEW MILITIA UNITS, AND SAID FPLM (MOZAMBIQUE'S ARMY) WOULD NOW GO ON OFFENSIVE. HE APPEALED FOR INTERNATIONAL AID, FIRST FROM AFRICA, AND SECONDLY FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, "WHO ARE READY TO GIVE US ARMS". END SUMMARY.

2. IN MASS PROTEST RALLY IN MAPUTO, PRESIDENT MACHEL DENOUNCED "MASSACRES" OF JUNE 26 AND 28 IN MAPAI AND CHICUALACUALA, AND DECLARED "WE ACCEPT THE INVITATION OF IAN SMITH. THE PEOPLE DEMAND THAT THE DEBT BE PAID."

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PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00754 040930Z

3. MACHEL THEN CITED ACTIONS OF SMITH FORCES AGAINST FRELIMO

GOING BACK TO 1965, AND IN STRONGEST LANGUAGE YET USED, REPEATEDLY DENOUNCED SMITH AS A "LUNATIC" AND A "MAD DOG".

4. THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF MILITIA GROUPS WHO WILL WORK TOGETHER WITH THE FPLM TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY; DECLARED THE THE FPLM, WHICH UP TO NOW HAS BEEN A DEFENSIVE FORCE, WOULD NOW GO ON THE OFFENSIVE; AND CALLED FOR VOLUNTEERS TO REPEL FUTURE RHODESIAN AGGRESSION.

5. MACHEL ALSO CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL AID: "IN THE FIRST PLACE, WE WANT AFRICA'S HELP", HE SAID, AND SECONDLY, "WE CALL ON THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, WHO ARE READY TO GIVE US ARMS."

6. TODAY'S MEETING WAS THE LAST OF ITS TYPE, MACHEL DECLARED. THE NEXT MASS MEETING WOULD BE CALLED WHEN THE FPLM REPORTED TO HIM "MISSION COMPLETED". THAT MEETING WOULD ALSO BE A CELEBRATION OF ZIMBABWE'S INDEPENDENCE.

7. MACHEL ANNOUNCED THAT THE EQUIVALENT OF 80 THOUSAND POUNDS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM THE MOZAMBIQUE SOLIDARITY BANK FOR THE REBUILDING OF THE VILLAGE OF MAPAI AND ANOTHER 120 THOUSAND POUNDS FROM THE SAME SOURCE WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE ZIMBABWE LIBERATION FORCES.

8. COMMENT: UP TO NOW, GPRM HAS PROVIDED SCANT (AND OFTEN DELAYED) COVERAGE OF RHODESIAN ATTACKS INSIDE MOZAMBIQUE. SERIOUSNESS OF JUNE 26 AND 28 RAIDS, HOWEVER, COULD NOT BE IGNORED. RECENT RAIDS ARE OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASING TO GRPRM, WHICH PRESENTLY CANNOT STOP THEM. CONTINUED RAIDS OF THIS MAGNITUDE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY LEAD GPRM TO ASK ITS "NATURAL SOCIALIST ALLIES" TO PROVIDE MORE SOPHISTICATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT. IF RAIDS STILL PERSIST, GPRM WILL THINK STRONGLY ABOUT INVITING FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO PLAN MORE PROMINENT ROLE IN DEFENDING MOZAMBIQUE'S BORDERS.

9. MACHEL REPORTEDLY POSTPONED TRIP TO MAURITIUS OAU SUMMIT MEETING TO PREPARE MAJOR ADDRESS ON RHODESIAN SITUATION, HE IS NOW SCHEDULED TO LEAVE TOMORROW MORNING FOR AN UNANNOUNCED DESTINATION. DE PREE

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